

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)008

Question Serial No.

0957

Head : 138 Government Secretariat :
Housing, Planning and Lands Bureau
(Planning and Lands Branch)

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Buildings, Lands and Planning

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands
(Planning and Lands)

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question : There is duplicated area of work as described in Programme 2 (Building, Lands and Planning) and Programme 1 (Territorial and Sub-regional Planning) under Head 118 Planning Department. They both involve preparation of a report on Hong Kong's long-term development strategy and the relevant study. In this connection, could the Government inform this Committee:

- (a) whether the Administration will consider reorganizing the functions of the two in order to streamline procedures and cut public expenditure, and how much could be saved annually; and
- (b) if not, why?

Asked by : Hon. TSANG Yok-sing

Reply :

Through the "Hong Kong 2030 : Planning Vision and Strategy" Study (the Study), the Government will formulate a long-term development strategy for Hong Kong. There is no duplication of work between Programme 2 of Head 138 (Housing, Planning and Lands Bureau) and Programme 1 of Head 118 (Planning Department). For the Bureau, its involvement in the Study is mainly to provide input and steer from the policy angle, and oversee the progress of Study. As for the Planning Department, it is responsible for carrying out the Study, providing professional input during the process, and arranging for public consultation throughout the Study. Both the Bureau and the Department have to work hand in hand on this project. We have therefore no plan to reorganize the functions of the two programmes.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Thomas Tso

Post Title _____ Acting Permanent Secretary for Housing,
Planning and Lands (Planning and Lands)

Date _____ 20 March 2003